

A Vocations Message
From Fr. Brian Christensen
Third Sunday of Easter
April 6, 2008

The Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 13, 2008, has been designated by Pope Benedict XVI as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. His Holiness has chosen the theme, *Vocations at the Service of the Church on Mission*. While the whole Church is missionary and every member has a responsibility by virtue of his or her Baptism to bear witness to the Gospel, Pope Benedict writes, "This missionary dimension is associated in a special and intimate way with the priestly vocation." He notes, "Among those totally dedicated to the service of the Gospel, are priests, called to preach the Word of God, administer the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation, committed to helping the lowly, the sick, the suffering, the poor, and those who experience hardship in areas of the world where there are, at times, many who still have not had a real encounter with Jesus Christ." (*Letter for World Day of Prayer for Vocations*, 2008)

In addition to priests, consecrated men and women have served as heroic witnesses to the Gospel in our time. In his letter, the Pope further states in his letter, "There have always been in the Church many men and women who, prompted by the action of the Holy Spirit, choose to live the Gospel in a radical way, professing the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience."

It is for the good of the Church and for the salvation of the world that we foster, within our parish communities and within our Catholic families, an environment that assists all people, especially the young, to discover their particular call to holiness. Our daily efforts at prayer for vocations and this special occasion, The World Day of Prayer for Vocations, are absolutely essential to creating the environment in which vocations to priesthood and consecrated life flourish.

Please join me here at Our Lady of the Black Hills next Sunday, April 13, at 3:00 pm for a period of prayer and adoration for vocations. Dinner and a short presentation on vocations will be presented afterwards. Bring the whole family. I look forward to this wonderful day of prayer and our time together. May God bless you for all you do to promote a culture of vocations within your parish and family life.

Sincerely in Christ

Rev. Brian P. Christensen
Director of Vocations
www.Gods-call.org

The Week Ahead

April 7-13, 2008

Monday, April 7

Color: White

Readings: Acts 6:8-15; Psalm 119:23-30; John 6:22-29

8:00 am: Daily Liturgy

Intention: Ike Hecker

6:30 pm: Cub Scouts

Tuesday, April 8

Color: White

Readings: Acts 7:51-8:1; Psalm 31:3-8, 17, 21

No Daily Liturgy

6:30 pm: Returning Catholic Ministry Core Team Meeting

7:00 pm: Boy Scouts

Wednesday, April 9

Color: White

Readings: Acts 8:1-8; Psalm 66:1-7; John 6:35-40

9:00 am – Noon: Food Pantry

5:30 pm: Daily Liturgy

Intention: Healing for the Abused

6:00 – 8:30 pm: Gatherings of Grace: The Rosary

Thursday, April 10

Color: White

Readings: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; John 6:44-51

8:00 am: Daily Liturgy

Intention: Justin Judy

6:30 pm: Knights of Columbus

Friday, April 11

Saint Stanilaus, Bishop and Martyr

Color: Red

Readings: Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 117:1-2; John 6:52-59

Confirmation Retreat at Camp Judson

8:00 am: Daily Liturgy

Intention: Repose of Monica Urbanek

Saturday, April 12

Color: White

Readings: Acts 9:31-42; Psalm 116:12-17; John 6:60-69

Confirmation Retreat at Camp Judson

8:00 am: Daily Liturgy

Intention: OLBH Confirmation Retreat

9:00 am – Noon: Food Pantry

3:30 to 4:30 pm: Reconciliation

Saturday Evening, April 12

Third Sunday of Easter

Color: White

Readings: Acts 2:14, 36-41; Psalm 23:1-16; 1 Peter 2:20-25; John 10:1-10

5:00 pm: Sunday Liturgy

Intention: OLBH Parish Community

Sunday, April 13

Third Sunday of Easter

Color: White

Readings: Acts 2:14, 36-41; Psalm 23:1-16; 1 Peter 2:20-25; John 10:1-10

8:00 am: Sunday Liturgy

Intention: Fr. Ray Bucko S.J.

9:15 am: Learn to Make a Rosary

10:30 am: Sunday Liturgy

Intention: Fr. Ray Bucko S.J.

3:00 – 7:00 pm: World Day of Prayer for Vocations, here at OLBH

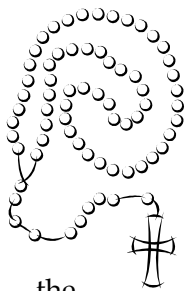
6:30 pm: Confirmation Class

Parish Community News

April 6, 2008

Gatherings of Grace: The Rosary

In preparation for May, the month when we honor Mary, the Mother of God, we are offering several opportunities to learn more about the



Rosary. On two Sundays, April 6 and April 13, at 9:15 am, Colette

Stoffel will show us how to make a knotted Rosary. At

Gatherings of Grace on Wednesday, April 9, from 6:00

to 8:30 pm, we will learn about the

Rosary and how to pray this beautiful prayer. And on Thursday, May 1, at 6:30 pm, we will celebrate the Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary and pray Evening Prayer as a community. There will be a reception afterwards.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Please join Fr. Brian Christensen and our diocesan community for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations on Sunday, April 13, here at OLBH. We will have a period of prayer and Eucharistic Adoration from 3:00 to 5:00 pm, followed by dinner and a presentation by Fr. Christensen. Come for all or part of the evening, and bring the whole family.

Returning Catholic Ministry

The kickoff meeting for the Returning Catholic Ministry core team will be held Tuesday, April 8, at 6:30 pm. Those who have already volunteered for the core team will be provided with more details. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, contact Greg Sass at 348-2213 or greg.sass@olbh.org.

High Tea

The Stewardship Committee invites ladies of all ages to High Tea on April 19, 2:00 to 4:00 pm. There will be several theme tables to choose from, offering steaming pots of tea, mouthwatering scones and sinful sweets, as well as good conversation and laughter. Pre-registration is requested; tickets are \$7. Look for the sign-up sheet in the gathering area!

A Return to San Lucas Toliman

Dr. George Ceremuga and his son George were a part of the OLBH contingent that went to Guatemala last June. It was so meaningful to them that they are headed back to provide medical care in outreach clinics this May 9-16. They are asking for donations, not to defray the cost of their trip, but to be given directly to the mission for the people of San Lucas Toliman. You may make out your checks to OLBH, with SLT in the memo section, and place them in the collection basket or take them to the parish office. Your generosity is most appreciated. Please keep these good servants in your prayers as well. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Ceremuga at 430-4843 or lamedeerdoc@yahoo.com.

Dishwasher for Sale

We are selling the old dishwasher from the church kitchen. It's an automatic commercial under the counter dishwasher, Jackson Model JV-24B, 120/208 volt, wash temp 150-165, rinse temp 180-195, 33 1/4" to 35 1/4" high, 23 7/8" wide, 22 3/4" deep. Call Jim Wranek at 787-5168 and give him an offer.

News from Around the Diocese

Benedictine Oblate Workshop

Spend some time with Benedictine Oblates, April 12, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Learn how the lay monastic life has enriched their spiritual journey. A free will offering will be taken for handouts, refreshments, and lunch. To register, call Sister Marmion at 343-2688.

Catholic Singles Group

The Friends of Luke and Martha is an organization of single people, open to all who are separated, divorced, widowed, or have never married, ages 21-55. Join us for our next meeting, Sunday, April 13, at 7 pm in room 107 at Blessed Sacrament Church. If you have any questions, please call Terry Schroeder at 341-1143 or Lisa Wattenhofer at 342-2305.

Rachel's Vineyard

A Rachel's Vineyard retreat is an opportunity for anyone whose life has been affected by abortion to transform the pain of the past into hope for the future. The next retreat will be held April 18-20 in Rapid City. If you have any questions, contact Carol Kling at 374-5639.

Jail Ministry

The *Hope for New Life* jail ministry at Blessed Sacrament is looking for men and women over 18 who have the desire to follow Christ's teaching by visiting the imprisoned. For more information, call Tony Galles at 348-2301 or Mary Sperlich at 342-9343.

Keeping Our Promise to Protect

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. There is no better season than Easter to celebrate the protection of our children. The Diocese of Rapid City is committed to creating and maintaining the safest environment for our children. For information on our safe environment program, go to our website at www.rapidcitydiocese.org.

Christian Family Planning Seminar



Our next seminar will be held Saturday, April 19, 9:00 am to noon, at St. Joseph's in Spearfish. This seminar is a requirement for those planning to be married in the Diocese of Rapid City. For more information call Family Life Ministries at 343-3541.

Volunteers Needed For Pope John Paul II Exhibit

A Blessing to One Another: Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People is an international exhibit that chronicles the Polish Pope's work in fostering reconciliation between Catholics and Jews. The exhibit, sponsored by Stan Adelstein, will be in Rapid City from May 2 to August 13. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Sheri Krulitz at 394-4104.

Next Weekend's Ministry Schedule

April 12-13, 2008

Ministry	Saturday, April 12 5:00 pm	Sunday, April 13 8:00 am	Sunday, April 13 10:30 am
Bread Baker	Lori Kline	Lori Kline	Lori Kline
Altar Servers	Gina Czmowski Joe Schulte Tyler Trautman	Hannah Ehresmann Aaron Thies Taylor Thies	Matthias Didricksen Curt Mehaffy Jacqui Osnes
Precious Blood	Roberta Balzer Jayme Hunt Cathy Wang John Wang	Dean Antonsen Mary Antonsen Frank Boner Dennis Fischer	Christine Didricksen Judy Nelson Joni Osnes John Usera
Precious Body	Reggie Hunt	Larry Williamson	Bernadette Usera
Lectors	Doris Hume Cathy Sass	Chad Thies Donna Boner	Carrie Baker Joni Osnes
Sacristans	John and Cathy Wang	Frank and Donna Boner	Ken and Kathy VanAsma
Ushers	Pat and Joyce Clark	Stan Barber Marc Jacobs	Bob and Pam Wentz
Choir	Folk Group	Regina's Minstrels	Family Choir

For Your Prayers This Week

Life and Health Concerns

Janice Collings, Joe Creek, John Flohr, Ike
Hecker, Bob Lauinger, Sharon Long, Cliff
Meyer, Carol Michaelson, Dorothy Norman,
Don Policky, Darcy Randle, Marjorie Schaub,
Barb Scherr, Austin Weber, Steve Williams,
Walt Wilson, Mary Kay Young

Repose

Ashley Nelson, Elizabeth Steffan

Last Sunday's Collection

Loose	\$1,975.40
Envelopes	2,053.50
Easter	50.00
Student	83.80
<u>Votive</u>	<u>4.25</u>
Total	\$4,166.95



(Thank you in Greek!)

Saint of the Week

St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr (1030-1079)

Anyone who reads the history of Eastern Europe cannot help but chance upon the name of Stanislaus, the Bishop of Kraków, who is remembered with Saints Thomas More and Thomas Becket for his vigorous opposition to the evils of unjust government and immoral rulers.

Bishop Stanislaus did not skirt around the politics of Poland. Known for his outspokenness, he aimed attacks at the evils of the government, and especially at the cruelty and unbridled lust of King Boleslaus II. In fact, the Bishop had the King excommunicated for his unrepentant acts. The King was so outraged at the Bishop that he ordered his soldiers to kill him. When they refused, the King himself killed the Bishop while he was celebrating Mass.

St. Stanislaus' Message for Today

We, too, are called to be outspoken against the unjust and immoral acts of our government leaders. Can you think of some examples of this today? We can follow the footsteps of Jesus, himself, who was not afraid to point out moral corruption in the leadership of his day.

For the Ride Home

Scripture

The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon! (Luke 24:33)

Reflection

- How did the disciples on the road to Emmaus react to their experience of Jesus walking among them fully alive?
- What actions of Jesus opened their eyes to his presence?
- In what ways have you experienced Jesus fully alive and walking among us today?



Many great men of the past have been loved with extreme intensity: Socrates by his disciples, Julius Caesar by his legionnaires, Napoleon by his soldiers. But today these men belong irrevocably to the past. There is no one who would give their life or their possessions for these men, even though their ideals are still advocated. But Jesus is still loved and still cursed; men still renounce their possessions and even their lives both for love of him, and even for hate of him. No living being is as alive as Jesus.¹

¹ Ricciotti, Giuseppe, *Christian Readings*, edited by John Rotelle, (New York: Catholic Book Publishing, 1973) 33.

Parents: Pray for your children... that they may become who they were born to be.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."
-Jeremiah 1:5

Come and Pray for Vocations:
Sunday: April 13, 2008
Our Lady of the Black Hills, Piedmont,
12365 Sturgis Road, Piedmont, SD - Exit 48

3pm: Adoration

5pm: Dinner

6pm: Presentation by Fr. Brian Christensen



World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2008

Office of Vocations, Diocese of Rapid City, www.Gods-call.org